

8th February 1924]

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (3) of my question, does the Government consider that the enhancement of a higher rate is the only way of limiting further irrigation, and if they think so, does it not amount to penalising the people who are entitled to get a supply of water ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Because they thought that it was not penalising.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ With reference to the answer given by the hon. Member in charge, will he be pleased to state whether the levy of high rates fixed, owing to the alleged need for limiting further irrigation and the very high value of water in this area, is authorized by the terms of the Act VII of 1865 ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is not prohibited by it.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Will the hon. Member be pleased to state whether he is sure if the object of the Act, as disclosed in the preamble, is not entirely inconsistent with any such power ? ”

(No answer.)

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

413 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether Diwan Bahadur A. V. Ramalinga Ayyar, late Chief Engineer for Irrigation, looked after the work of special projects in addition to his general work till his retirement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he was appointed as a Special Officer after his retirement when another officer was appointed as Chief Engineer ;

(c) whether there was any special reason as to why Mr. Ramalinga Ayyar should have been appointed as a Special Officer instead of his services being extended ;

(d) whether it is a fact that now also a separate Special Officer has been appointed to look after two special schemes in addition to the permanent Chief Engineer for Irrigation ;

(e) what the special reason was that necessitated two highly paid officers to look after the work which was done by one officer before ;

(f) whether the present Special Officer is duly qualified and whether he possesses the necessary training to be in charge of the irrigation schemes and, if so, what were the schemes in which he has worked before ;

(g) whether the Special Officer has been appointed for any fixed period and, if so, what that period is ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. He retired under the ordinary rule regarding age limit and the intention was that he should devote his whole attention to the Cauvery-Metur and the Sangameswaram Project Schemes during his special duty.

(d), (f) & (g) No special officer has been appointed.

(e) The work was not done by one officer before—vide clause (a) above.

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ With reference to the answer given to clause (c) of this question, is not the Chief Engineer expected to look after any special projects in the absence of a Special Officer ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member were aware of the magnitude and importance of the work that had to be done in connexion with these two schemes he would not have put this question.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I repeat my question. The hon. Member has not answered my question. What I want to know is : is it not the duty of the Chief Engineer, in the absence of any Special Officer, to look after any special projects ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

Irrigation projects in the Kurnool district.

414 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of irrigation projects in the Kurnool district that have been completely investigated and are ready for execution ;

(b) the names of projects that are still under investigation ;

(c) the probable time for completing the said investigation ;

(d) the names of the projects which will be taken up for execution in the course of this and the next official year respectively ?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) The Member is referred to the information given on pages 14 and 15 of Mr. Morgan's report on Irrigation Projects. Since the report was written, the Tippayyapalem Project has been sanctioned, and will be commenced in 1924-25, if funds permit.

The Thokapalli project.

415 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any preliminary steps have been taken in respect of the Thokapalli project ?

A.—The Member is referred to page 15 of Mr. F. E. Morgan's Report on Irrigation Projects which has been placed on Editors' Table. The scheme has since been held in abeyance till the Irrigation Bill is passed into law as a water-rate of Rs. 20 for first crop and Rs. 10 for second crop has to be levied to make the project productive. There is no need for a protection work in the tract commanded by the project.

Motor Vehicles Act.

Income and expenditure under the Motor Vehicles and Hackney Carriages Acts.

416 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) what is the amount derived annually under different heads both under the Motor Vehicles Act and the Hackney Carriages Act ;